*What is a stock screener?*

There are so many stocks to choose from. How can we narrow the universe of stocks into a smaller group that we can research and investigate? We can use a stock screener, which is a tool to help us focus our stock research efforts.

*The Stock Screener*

Go to finviz.com and click on screener. You will notice that there are hundreds of pages of stocks available. We need to reduce this list to a group that is more managable. We can also see that there is a list of filters under various categories; we will focus on the descriptive filters and the fundamental filters.

*Descriptive Screening Filters*

As we have discussed, filters help us find companies that fit our search criteria. For example you might want to limit your search to US based companies. You would use the country filter.

If you wanted a large-cap stock, you would use the Market Cap Filter to select a company with a market cap over $10B.

You can also filter by Sector and Industry. Sector is a broad section of the economy (like healthcare), while Industry is a narrow section (like auto parts).

Note that these are examples and not the only filters you can use.

*Fundamental Screening Filters*

you can also select filters based on specific financial performance measures, called fundamental filters.

These filters allow you to choose a minimum Return on Equity (ROE), Net Profit Margin, or 1 year projected growth rate.

Clearing a filter: If you click on Reset, it clears all your filters

*Stock Screener Tips*

* You can sort your selections.
* You can filter your selections even further.
* Or you can eliminate one of filters by just choosing the “any” option on that filter
* Look out for crazy numbers, numbers that don’t make any sense.
* You can always verify the numbers that you find on finviz.com by looking at the company’s financial filings directly.